Closure of industrial units

2289. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 250,000 industrial units have closed down over the last few years, costing jobs of large number of workers; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to prevent such disruption of the industry causing hardships to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) According to the information collected by the Labour Bureau on voluntary basis, 495 industrial units had closed down during 1999 to September, 2002.

(b) Safeguards are provided under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to protect the interests of workers affected by such closures. A scheme for counseling, retraining and redeployment of rationalized workers of Central Public Sector Undertakings has also been introduced from 2001-2002 with a thrust on self-employment of the rationalized employees.

Child labour

2290. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Child labour narrate tales of woe" which appeared in the "Deccan Herald", dated the 16th November, 2002;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the number of child labour and the sectors employing them in the country, State-wise and sector-wise; and

(c) the details of the measures taken to free the child labour from their employers, to rehabilitate them and to eliminate child labour?